Setting up of Urea Plants

409. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to set up a number of Urea plants in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, how many Urea plants are likely to be set up in Madhya Pradesh in the near future with details thereof; and

(c) if answer to part (b) is negative the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) A number of schemes in this regard have been included in the 8th Plan proposals which are yet to be finalised.

(b) It is proposed to double the capacity of Vijaipur plant of National Fertilizers Ltd. The project is likely to materialise during the 8th plan. The capacity of the new urea plant will be 7,26,000 tonnes per annum.

(c) Does not arise.

De-freezing of essential medicines

410. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to decontrol certain essential medicines;

(b) if so, details in this regard;

(c) whether the decontrol of essential drugs would escalate the prices beyond the reach of common man; and

(d) if so, the manner in which Government propose to ensure the availability of de-controlled essential drugs to the common man at reasonable prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (d) The entire drug policy is still under review and as such, it would be premature to disclose the details at this stage. It has always been the endeavour of Government to ensure easy availability of both scheduled and non scheduled formulations in abundent quantity at reasonable prices to the consumers. This aspect is being borne in mind while reviewing the drug policy.

Rehabilitation of Bhopal Gas Victims and Workers of UCC

411. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present position of compensation case and the amount of compensations paid to the victims of Bhopal Gas tragedy;

(b) whether Government have drawn up any concrete action plan for rehabilitation of victims of Bhopal gas tragedy and erstwhile workers of M/s. Union Carbide Ltd. Bhopal;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have made any budgetary provision to meet the cost of rehabilitation of the victims of gas tragedy and also earstwhile workers of Union Carbide Ltd., Bhopal;

(e) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(f) what steps have been taken by the Central Government for rehabilitation of gas victims so far and what are its achievements?